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INFO RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 0173
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1815
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 0244

S E C R E T SEOUL 001936

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/06/2018
TAGS: [EAID](#) [PREL](#) [KS](#) [AF](#)
SUBJECT: CLARIFIED REQUEST FOR AFGHAN NATIONAL ARMY
EXPANSION DELIVERED TO REPUBLIC OF KOREA

REF: A. STATE 97592 B. STATE 103482

Classified By: DCM Bill Stanton, Reasons 1.4 (b), (d)

¶11. (C) On Tuesday, October 30, Poloff delivered ref B
demarche to First Secretary Kim, Hyun-du in the ROK-U.S.
Security Cooperation Division of MOFAT. Poloff clarified the
language in ref A on the USG's request for ROKG support for
the expansion of the Afghan National Army. Poloff informed
Kim that the U.S. was requesting that the ROKG provide an
additional \$500 million (\$100 million per year from 2010 to
2014) to expand the Afghan National Army. Mr. Kim took the
revised figure in stride as we had earlier clarified the
amount of support we were requesting. Poloff stressed that
this request was in conjunction with, not in place of,
previous requests for ROK assistance to Afghanistan.

¶12. (C) When asked how and when the ROKG interagency decision
would be made, Mr. Kim stated that MOFAT would probably take
the lead but that this could change depending on the decision
the ROKG made. He gave no time frame for a response, but
said that the ROKG's National Assembly's (N.A.) budget
approval process would provide a rough road map to follow.

¶13. (C) If the aid was approved, it would be placed on the
N.A.'s budget docket. The request would have to be included
in the budget approval schedule during the first half of
2009, so that it could be approved and implemented in time
for the 2010 target date. While the N.A. convened in
September, decisions on budget allocations often strayed well
into late December. While he was unable to say when a
response would be forthcoming, he noted it would not be
unreasonable to see whether or not the request had made its
way out of the interagency approval process by June, 2009.
The definitive shape and size of the package would not be
known, however, until the last quarter of 2009.

STEPHENS